

REMARKS

The issues outstanding in the instant application are as follows:

- Claims 1, 18, and 24-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by *Pierbon*, U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2006/0044125 (hereinafter *Pierbon*);
- Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 18, 19 and 21-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *DeZorzi*, U.S. Pat. No. 6,232,875 (hereinafter *DeZorzi*), in view of *Pierbon*;
- Claims 3 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *DeZorzi* and *Pierbon*, in view of *Hughes et al*, U.S. Pat. No. 5,557,268 (hereinafter *Hughes*);
- Claims 8-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *DeZorzi* in view of *Pierbon* and *McSweeney*, U.S. Pat. No. 5,631,630 (hereinafter *McSweeney*);
- Claim 20 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *DeZorzi* and *Pierbon*, in view of *McClelland et al*, U.S. Pat. No. 6,710,708 (hereinafter *McClelland*); and
- Claims 11-17 are indicated as allowable.

Although Applicant does not necessarily agree with the rejections detailed above, Applicant has amended allowable claims 11-15 and 17 to place them in independent form in the interest of advancing prosecution of the present application. Claim 16 stands unamended, depending from, now independent, claim 15. The remaining claims, claims 1-10 and 18-26 have been cancelled. Hence, Applicant submits that the pending claims are allowable and that this application is in condition for full allowance.

The fees necessary for the accompanying Petition for Extension of Time (two-months) and the added independent claim fee (two additional independent claims) are dealt with in the accompanying transmittals and/or the Petition itself. Applicant believes no additional fees are due with this response. However, if an additional fee is due, please charge Deposit Account No. 50-1534, from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner call the below listed attorney if the Examiner believes that the attorney can be helpful in resolving any remaining issues or can otherwise be helpful in expediting prosecution of the present application.

Date: September 5, 2007

Respectfully submitted,



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